(b) if so, the salient features of the said scheme; and

(c) the way by which these schools are likely to be funded and administered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 1996-97 has set apart an initial sum of Rupees Five crore to assist in the establishment of residential primary schools for poor children irrespective of caste or creed. It is intended that this scheme should be implemented through non-government organisations. The guidelines and operational modalities of the scheme shall be worked out in consultation with the State Governments.

[*English*]

Culverts on N.H. in Andhra Pradesh

4835. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to widen narrow culverts on the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh between Eluru and Tadepalligudem; and

(b) the amount sanctioned during the current year for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) On Eluru-Tadepalligudem Section on National Highway–5 in Andhra Pradesh, as there are no narrow culverts, the question of taking steps for their widening does not arise.

(b) Allocation of funds are made to the States as a whole and not projectwise. As budget for the current year is yet to be approved, it is too early to indicate the provisions.

[*Translation*]

Target for N.H. in Gujarat

4836. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for construction of National Highways during Eighth Five Year Plan in Gujarat;

(b) the length of National Highways constructed during last four years and amount spent thereon; and

(c) the reasons for not achieving the targets fixed, and the concrete steps being taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) National Highways in the country are existing roads and their length stands at 34,298 Km. Presumably, the Hon'ble Member has in mind the addition to National Highway network. No targets were fixed for 8th Five Year Plan due to paucity of funds and in Gujarat, no length has been added during this period.

[*English*]

Relations with Nepal

4837. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some pacts/agreements were signed between India and Nepal on Water sharing recently;

(b) if so, the details of each of the agreements, including terms and conditions, on sharing of water of river Mahakali and other rivers in both the countries;

(b) whether the Parliament of Nepal ratified the agreement:

(c) the extent to which the relations between the two countries have been strengthened after the last visit of Prime Minister of Nepal;

(e) whether all the outstanding issues between the two countries have been resolved; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) The "Treaty concerning the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project" was concluded during the visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister to India in February 1996. India and Nepal have welomed the signing of the treaty which would bring significant benefits to both the countries. From the date the Treaty comes into force, India would supply to Nepal 300 cusecs of water from Tanakpur in the dry season (up from 150 cusecs) and a 70 million units of energy (up from 20 million units), free of cost. A Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Project would be implemented within eight years from the date of the agreement for its implementation, which would be concluded within one year of finalisation of the DPR. The two countries are jointly preparing a DPR which will be finalised within six months of the Mahakali Treaty coming into force. The Treaty is expected to be tabled during current session of the Nepalese Parliament for ratification.

(d) to (f) India and Nepal enjoy friendly relations which were further strengthened by the visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister. All round progress in accelerating the pace of bilateral ties in various spheres has been made in the months following the visit. Commerce Secretary visited Kathmandu in July 1996 when it was agreed to remove the 50% material and labour content requirement for duty free imports of products of Nepalese manufacture into India.